

Wincanton Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1938.



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WINCANTON,
SOMERSET,
May, 1939.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINCANTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1938. According to instructions received from the Ministry of Health, certain details of conditions, which do not vary from year to year, are omitted, it being requested that the Report for 1938 should be an ordinary one. The details given below are, therefore, in accordance with suggestions made by the Ministry of Health.

1—General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	64,540
Population (1938)	....	...	...	15,630
Number of inhabited houses (1931)			...	4,361
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)				4,385
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£74,370
Produce of Penny Rate (estimated)			...	£300

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS.

			Males.	Females.		
		Total	87	144		
Live Births	...	Legitimate	84	139	Birth Rate	15.1
		Illegitimate	3	5		
		Total	4	4		
Stillbirths	...	Legitimate	4	4	Birth Rate	0.6
		Illegitimate	—	—		

DEATHS.

Deaths from all causes	175	86	89	Death Rate	11.6
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Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	nil.
(b) from other causes		...	nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	5.	Illegitimate	1.	Total	6.
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Deaths of Infants under one week	3
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)		1
„ „ from one to six months	0
„ „ from six to twelve months		...	...	1
				—
			Total	5
				—

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

3.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases* admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	....	...	...	14	17**	2
Scarlet Fever	....	...	...	31	28	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	nil	nil
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	22	nil	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	nil	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	..	..	nil	nil	nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	....	nil	nil	nil
Dysentery	...	...	...	nil	nil	nil
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	9	?	8
(a) Respiratory	{ Males		... 3			
	{ Females		... 1			
	{ Total		... ..	4		7
(b) Non-respiratory	{ Males		... 2			
	{ Females		... 3			
	{ Total		... ..	5		1

** 3 doubtful cases admitted for observation.

* 1 „ case of suspected Acute Poliomyelitis admitted for observation.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

	Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At home.	In hospital.				
	None.	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

New Cases.					Deaths.				
Age Periods.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	Age Periods.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.
		M.	F.	M. F.			M.	F.	M. F.
0	7 months	—	—	—	0	7 months	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	1	1 ...	—	—	—	1
5 ...	—	—	—	2 1	5 ...	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	—	10 ...	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	15 ...	—	1	—	—
20 ..	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—
25 ...	1	—	—	1	25 ...	1	—	—	—
35 ...	1	1	—	—	35 ...	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	45 ...	1	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	55 ...	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	65 & upwards	—	1	—	—
Total		3	1	2 3	Total ..		4	3	1 0

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925—
No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62—
No action taken.

4.—Causes of Sickness.

There were no specially noteworthy causes of Sickness in the District.

The following Schools were closed during the year :—

For Whooping Cough—Henstridge and Corton Denham.

For Coughs and Colds—South Brewham and Charlton Horethorne.

5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available in the District.

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (1) *General*.—There are nine nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover practically the whole district.

(2) *For Infectious Diseases.*—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives.

There are eight certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—Hospitals available for the District.

(1) *Tuberculosis.*—One at Wincanton.

(2) *Fever.*—One at Wincanton, to which the following cases were admitted during the year.

Disease.	Number Admitted.	Number Died.	
Scarlet Fever	28	nil	
Diphtheria	17*	2	*Including 3 doubtful cases for observation.
**For Observation	1	nil	
** <small>(This was a case of suspected acute Poliomyelitis).</small>	—	—	
	46	2	
	—	—	

(3) *Other.*—There is one Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.

There is one Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases ; in addition, there are three wards available for Maternity Cases.

There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.

F.—Ambulance Facilities.

- (1) *For Infectious Cases.*—A motor ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Wincanton for the collection and removal of infectious cases.
- (2) *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.*—A motor ambulance, built and equipped by Messrs. The Wincanton Transport and Engineering Co., Wincanton, is kept at Wincanton, Tel. 3262.

6.—Laboratory Work.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Public Assistance Institution, Wincanton.

There were 2 applications for it in 1938 and 12,000 units were supplied.

7.—Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

There is one Sanitary Inspector and Housing Surveyor, one Assistant Sanitary Inspector and one Temporary Additional Assistant (all whole time officers), a Public Health Inspector and myself (part time officers).

There are also 2 Health Visitors in the District.

8.—Water Supplies.

- (1) *Ansford.* A main extension has been laid to serve 42 new Council Houses.
- (2) *Bruton.* A main extension has been laid to serve various cowsheds and cattle troughs in the neighbourhood of Dropping Lane.
- (3) *Charlton Musgrove.* A main extension has been laid to serve two farms and premises at South Marsh.
- (4) *Henstridge.* A main has been laid to five farms at The Marsh; replacing an existing defective private service main. The new main is to be made available for four other houses of which the present supply is inadequate.
- (5) *Maperton.* Plans for extension of the main to cottages at Maperton Ridge are being prepared.
- (6) *Milborne Port.* The Reservoir and new mains started in 1937 are almost completed and the water has been connected to supply.

9.—Drainage and Sewerage.

No new schemes have been put in hand, but the remodelling of the Milborne Port works has almost been completed.

Camping Sites.

No Camping Sites in this District have been registered.

Generally the only cases of Camping which occurred were cases of 2 or 3 days duration.

One site was used for Camping purposes in 1938 by gypsies in 6 caravans, they only remained on the site for 4 days and the estimated number of persons was 20.

No special difficulties in connection with Camping are anticipated.

10.—Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By Local Authority—

With	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act 1936	...	...	112
State	(b) Overcrowding	...	...	2
Assistance	(c) Other	....	...	—
Without State Assistance		...	...	26

(ii) By other bodies or persons—

(a) With State Assistance	...	...	...	—
(b) Without State Assistance	...	...	...	25

1. Housing Inspections :—

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	491
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1378
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	142
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	178
	(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	..		2
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....		28
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	112

2. *Housing Action :—*

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	13
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	—

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	30
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	36
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	28
(3) (a) Clearance Orders made	—
(b) Number of Houses involved	—
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed	—
(a) Number of houses involved	—
(b) Number of houses demolished	21
(c) Number of houses to be demolished	—

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	...	...	....	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	..	...	...	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	7
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	7
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	47
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	64
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	... ..	—

11.—Ministry of Health Enquiries.

Castle Cary and Ansford. I. H. Hainsworth, Esq, Inst. C.E., held an enquiry on September 29th to consider the proposed remodelling of the existing Sewage Works and this enlargement to deal with the sewage proposed to be taken from Ansford. The Ministry of Health has suggested certain alterations to the proposals and the plans are being amended accordingly.

Wincanton. On April 22nd, M. R. Atkins, Esq., C.B.E., M.Inst. C.E., held an enquiry into the Council's proposal to borrow £11,000 for the proposed Sewage Works. Following this enquiry the Ministry of Health have suggested certain modifications of the Scheme. Owing to this and to some delay in reaching an agreement as to the quantity of trade effluent to be dealt with, the final details are not ready for re-submission to the Ministry. On February 8th, H. W. Coales, Esq., O.B.E., M.C., A.M.Inst.C.E., held an enquiry into the Council's proposal to borrow £1,000 for the purchase of an additional water collecting area, to augment the supply of the Penselwood District, comprising the parishes of Bratton, Compton Pauncefoot, Cucklington, Holton, Horsington, Maperton, North Cheriton, Penselwood, Shepton Montague, Stoke Trister and Wincanton. The Ministry of Health have approved the proposal and the work of collecting the water is in progress. The water from one spring was tested and found satisfactory. This can be taken into supply at any time.

12.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

(1) Number of Producers on the Register	...	..	...	555
(2) Number of Distributors on the Register—				
(a) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	...	37
(b) Distributors only	...	...	...	3
(3) Number of Licences granted to Distributors to sell Pasteurised, Graded or Certified Milk	....	...	....	3
(a) Licence to Produce and sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	1
(b) ,, ,, Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk			...	2

(b) *Meat Supervision.*

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Licensed 3. Registered 16. Total 19.

13.—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
<u>Factories</u> with mechanical power ...	83	5	—
<u>Factories</u> without mechanical power ...	52	10	—
<u>Other Premises</u> under the Act (Other than Outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	135	15	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	11	11		
Want of ventilation	—	—		
Overcrowding	—	—		
Want of drainage of floors	—	—		
Other nuisances	—	—		
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient	2	1	
	unsuitable or defective	1	1	
	not separate for sexes	*	1	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101)				
Other offences	5	5		
(Excluding offences relating to Homework and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921) and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.				
TOTAL	19	19		

*This case was found in 1937.

The Report of the Sanitary and Public Health Inspectors are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WINCANTON,
March 10th, 1939.

To T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Medical Officer of Health,
WINCANTON, SOMERSET.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

WATER SUPPLIES.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES :

Previously to this year the Public Supplies have been submitted to only one regular Bacteriological Examination each year, although others were taken on occasion.

During 1937, however, it was decided to have routine examinations made each quarter.

The results of the examinations of the Public Supplies are as follows :

Number of Samples examined	....	...	...	46
Number found satisfactory	....	...	...	38
Number found fairly satisfactory	...	...	...	6
Number found unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2

Of the two unsatisfactory samples one was traced to a storage cistern which was subsequently cut out, the supply being taken direct from the rising main. The other sample was taken from springs which it was hoped to add to the Wincanton Old Supply. The result of the analysis rendered this impossible.

The Wincanton and Penselwood Supplies gave at times only fairly satisfactory results and as a result both collecting areas were examined and in both cases recommendations were made to the appropriate committee. Many of these have been accepted and others are under consideration.

The collecting area of the Wincanton Old Supply is in my opinion extremely liable to surface contamination. The Council have the question of chlorination under consideration. However, when the additional supply from the Penselwood Scheme is included it may well be a better policy to abandon the Wincanton Old Supply altogether.

Seven Chemical Examinations were made. They are as follows :

Wincanton Public Supply.—This revealed a possible action upon galvanized iron and some but probably not permanent action on lead.

The Penselwood Public Supply before and after passing through bituminous lined pipes.—The result of this showed that although the water was not harmful it had a very marked bituminous taste. The makers of these pipes have the matter in hand and it is hoped that this trouble will be remedied shortly.

A Chemical Analysis of the Wincanton Public Supply directed specifically to its action on Lead.—This showed that the water had a solvent action on lead and (in the words of the Public Analyst)—“ People using this water through lead pipes should be advised always to run to waste the water that has been standing in the pipes overnight.”

A Chemical Analyst of the Penselwood and District Supply directed to its action on lead.—From this analysis it appeared that there was no evidence that the oxidation of lead had been reduced by the lime treatment and it was suggested that sodium silicate in the place of lime would be more effective.

A Chemical Analyst of the Bruham Public Supply taken before and after its passage through the private main leading to Horsely Farm.—This analysis showed an acid re-action (PH 6.6) and it was stated that it would probably act upon galvanized iron. The analysis of this water after its passage through the pipes indicated a very slight increase in iron but no zinc and the result can be regarded as satisfactory.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES :

Number of Private Supplies examined	....	....	28
Number satisfactory	...	...	13
Fairly satisfactory	...	...	11
Unsatisfactory	...	...	4

The unsatisfactory supplies were as follows :—

A well at a cottage, the subject of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

A well at a cottage at Southdown, Shepton Montague.

A spring supplying Knowle Park Farm, Shepton Montague.

In the last two cases the occupiers have been advised to boil water before use and the question of the extension of the public supply is under consideration.

The fourth case was that of a private supply at Stowell. On examination the reservoir showed need of cleansing and a second sample gave better results.

CONNECTIONS TO PUBLIC SUPPLIES :

The following connections have been made during the year :

Existing houses formerly supplied from standpipes	...	16
Existing houses having insufficient supplies	... ..	36
New houses	... ..	133

SEWERS.

I have furnished you with details of two Ministry of Health Inquiries.

Bruton.—The possibility of doing away with a syphon under Leggs Bridge was considered and levels were taken for a new sewer proposed to be laid in a direct line across the river.

As this sewer would have been below high water level the Engineer to the Rivers Board advised that he could not support the proposal and the scheme was, therefore, abandoned. It is realised, however, that this unsatisfactory syphon will have to be dealt with sooner or later and alternative possibilities will be examined.

Holton.—A proposal for a small scheme of sewage disposal has not received the approval of the Ministry of Health and the matter is still under consideration.

Milborne Port.—The remodelling of the Sewage Works has almost been completed but samples of the effluent from the filter have shown that this filter is not yet working at its maximum efficiency.

The sewer from Kingsbury to Brook Street has been scoured and a large quantity of sediment removed. As a result surcharging in this sewer length has been eliminated, except during times of exceptionally heavy rain. During this work there occurred a case of gas poisoning in a manhole near the Tannery. Two men were badly affected and were taken to hospital where they were detained. They were able to resume work after a week's convalescence. The exact cause of the poisoning was not proved but it was believed to have been caused by sulphuretted hydrogen, either generated when quantities of sediment were disturbed or released from pockets freed by the lowering of the level of the sewer content. Following this accident precautions were taken to prevent any recurrence, involving the use of live mice, an air mask and life lines.

Queen Camel and Sparkford.—The Contractors on this sewage disposal scheme, namely the Rolls Construction Co. went into liquidation before the Contract was complete. After much negotiation the Council accepted an estimate from Mr. T. Evans for the completion of the work but at the end of the year a few items still remained to be finished.

Despite this the works have been in operation for the whole year and the result so far appears satisfactory.

The works of connection of drains to the new sewer are almost complete. Only a few remain outstanding and in most of these cases the work is in hand.

South Cadbury.—The drainage disposal of the hamlet of Sutton Montis continued to give rise to complaint and the matter was referred to the Parish Meeting at which it was decided to approve a scheme of sewage disposal provided assistance could be obtained from the District and County Council. The District Council approved this decision and I have received instructions to prepare a scheme.

Stoke Trister.—Difficulties were experienced in obtaining a tender for the sewer relaying in Bayford Street but in November the work was commenced, the Council having accepted a contract from Messrs. Ireland of Bath. At the end of the year the work was nearing completion.

The Council have decided that this relaid sewer must be a sewer for all purposes and the construction and connection of several water closets are proposed. The provision of a means of purification must, therefore, receive early consideration.

Templecombe.—The unsatisfactory sewerage conditions in this town have been reported to the Council and the matter is under consideration.

A stone box sewer in Coombe Throop Road was found to be blocked and an examination has been ordered with instructions to clear it if practicable. The relaying of this is agreed to be necessary but it is to be deferred if possible so that the work may be included in the scheme under consideration.

Wincanton.—A sewer extension from West Hill to Dancing Lane has been completed. This will serve land being developed for building purposes in Dancing Lane where six houses have already been completed.

An unusual feature discovered during the year was the fact that a length of sewer at Station Road contained a hard lime deposit to a depth of 2 ins.—3 ins. This deposit was of laminated structure, very hard on the surface but softer in the centre. This sewer formerly received extremely hard water and it is possible that hot waste water from either the gas works or the engineering works cause precipitation of lime. By the use of a purpose made chisel most of the sewer has been cleared but one difficult length under a house remains to be dealt with. This work has had to be discontinued during the latter part of the year owing to the quantity of infiltrating water.

HOUSING.

I have supplied the Particulars in the form required by the Ministry of Health, but these do not give full information relating to undertakings as to the future user of houses. I give below, therefore, a table showing the number of notices served and the results, including the results of cases where action was incomplete at the end of 1937.

Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served	10
2.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
3.	Number of dwellinghouses demolished	49
4.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which were accepted undertakings not to use until made fit	32
5.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which were accepted conditional undertakings	5
6.	Number of dwellinghouses vacated following an undertaking not to use	55
7.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which were accepted undertakings to repair	15

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served	11
2.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
3.	Number of dwellinghouses closed	3

FIVE YEARS PROGRAMME.

I have set out below a statement showing the present position.

In preparing this statement I discovered that a few houses which at the start of the programme had been dealt with informally were included last year as houses in respect of which notices had been served.

It will be noted that there is still a large number of houses to be demolished and a large number of undertakings to be fulfilled. It is estimated, however, that the displacement of the majority of these will be effected by the end of next year.

Total number of Houses dealt with	....	...	...	614
No. dealt with under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 11 and 12			547	
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	43
Informal Action	...	...	...	24
Demolition Orders—Clearance Areas		...	...	43
Others	...	...	...	111
No. Demolished—Clearance Areas	....	...	21	
Others	...	...	79	
Closing Orders	...	...	...	11
No. Vacated	...	...	...	5
Undertakings not to Use for Human Habitation		...	...	247
Undertakings fulfilled	...	...	...	179
No. demolished	...	...	...	4
No. cancelled	...	...	...	25
Conditional Undertakings	...	...	...	35
No. vacated	...	...	...	7
No. cancelled	...	...	...	1
Undertakings to Repair	....	...	...	127
No. repaired	...	...	...	116
Informal Action	...	...	...	12
No. demolished	...	...	...	6
No. repaired	...	...	...	6
No further action required	...	...	...	17
Action incomplete	...	...	...	11

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. Number of houses found to be infested—

(a) Council Houses	...	...	Nil
(b) Other Houses	...	...	One

Number of houses disinfested—

(a) Council Houses	...	....	Nil
(b) Other Houses	...	...	One

2. In dealing with this case the house was vacated and fumigated with Cimex. The first application proved unsuccessful. The reason for this was believed to be due to the escape of gas through cavities in the stone walls. A second application proved successful, the concentration being calculated at 50 % in excess of the maker's recommendation to counteract any small escape of gas. The upper side of the first floor ceilings were sprayed with zaldicide.
3. Normally no precautions are necessary before removal and no special examination is made. If the existence of bed bugs is suspected an examination is made of the house in the first place and if the vermin is found to be present furniture is examined and sprayed with zaldicide and bedding is treated at the steam disinfector.
4. The work of disinfestation is carried out at the cost of the owner by local labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.
5. No special measures by way of supervision or education of tenants are considered necessary.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The question of sanitary accommodation has continued to receive attention this year and as a result satisfactory progress has been maintained. I give below a summary of new closets constructed and of conversions of closets following both formal and informal notices :

NEW HOUSES.

Number of houses	...	...	...	25
Water closets	...	....	...	37
Earth closets	..	...	...	1

EXISTING HOUSES.

New water closets	...	...	...	57
New earth closets	...	...	...	2
Vault closets converted to water closets	....	...	...	13
Vault closets converted to earth closets	...	...	...	3
Earth closets converted to water closets	...	...	...	14
Closets provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	41

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse is undertaken in the following Parishes—

Biweekly	...	...	...	Wincanton.
Weekly	...	...	...	Bruton.
Fortnightly	...	...	...	Ansford and Castle Cary.
Monthly	...	...	...	Henstridge and Templecombe.
Quarterly	...	...	...	Milborne Port.

The methods of disposal are not wholly satisfactory, and generally the methods of storage and collection are also unsatisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The disinfection of premises has been carried out after all cases of infectious disease.

Arrangements have continued to be made where necessary for the disinfection of bedding at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been received.

INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections during the year was 3862.

I give below a summary of nuisances, etc. other than those dealt with under the Housing Acts.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Statutory Action.

CLOSETS.

Number of Notices	...	....	...	15
Number complied with	...	...	...	3

DRAINS, ETC.

Number of Notices	...	...	...	5
Number complied with	...	...	...	4

DANGEROUS STRUCTURES, ETC.

Number of Notices	...	...	...	—
Number complied with	...	...	...	—

PREMISES INFESTED WITH VERMIN.

Number of Notices	...	...	...	—
Number complied with	...	...	...	—

Informal Action.

Nuisances relating to

Drains and Sanitary Conveniences	...	....	114
Abated	...	...	80
Sewers	...	...	26
Abated	...	...	18
Accumulation of Manure	...	...	1
Abated	...	...	1
Pollution of Streams	...	...	1
Abated	...	...	1
Defective Closets (excluding conversions)	...	...	2
Abated	...	...	2
Dangerous Structures	...	...	7
Abated	...	...	7
Verminous Premises	...	...	1
Abated	...	...	1

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The service of notices under Articles 12, 13 and 25 of the Order has been continued.

The receipt of these notices accelerated the work of reconditioning of premises and several new cowsheds have been built and many others reconditioned.

Inspections have revealed an improvement in milking conditions but in this connection there still remains work to be done.

MILK SUPPLIES.

A licence to pasteurise milk was granted to Messrs. Dried Milk Products, Ltd. Wincanton.

By arrangement between the Rural District Council and the County Council I have taken 402 samples of milk. Owing to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease sampling was discontinued for six weeks.

The results are here given —

		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.
Pasteurised	...	6	—	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	88	51	139
Accredited	...	153	77	230
Ordinary milk taken for examination for the presence of Tubercule Bacilli		25	2	27

The unsatisfactory cases were dealt with by the County Council.

Number of premises licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk—

At the beginning of the year	...	..	...	24
At the end of the year	...	...	...	38

Number of premises licensed for the production of Accredited Milk—

At the beginning of the year	...	...	...	65
At the end of the year	...	...	...	82

PLANS FOR NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.
(Excluding Council Houses).

Total number of plans submitted	...	...	...	131
Number of plans approved	...	..	...	128
Number of plans which referred to new dwellinghouses		...	....	28
Number of plans which referred to alterations to dwellinghouses (including drainage)	...	...	...	61
Other plans	...	..	...	42
Number of plans disapproved	...	...	...	3

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

During the year thirty-two schemes were prepared on behalf of owners and thirty of these were submitted to the County Council.

In eighteen cases the work was started.

During the year fifteen of the houses which come under my supervision were completed.

EXHIBITIONS.

The County Council arranged two Health Exhibitions, both being excellently organised by Miss Sewell.

One was held at Bruton on March 1st, and the other at Wincanton on Dec. 8th.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

The coming into operation of this Act on July 1st, 1938, has extended the duties of Local Authorities. One of the most important of these is the issue of certificates of means of escape in case of fire, which involves detailed inspection of all the larger factories. These inspections have been made in all cases but three and the details of the works necessary are being discussed with the occupiers.

Considerable progress has been made and the issue of the certificates are anticipated early next year.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. G. GRAY,

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.

CASTLE CARY,

January 27th, 1939.

To T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
 Medical Officer of Health,
 WINCANTON.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ended the 31st of December, 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	....	16
Number of Licensed	„	...	3

Carcases and portions of carcases of animals found to be unfit for human consumption were condemned and destroyed.

Approximate number of animals slaughtered in these slaughterhouses during the year as follows—

Horned Cattle (other than sheep)	...	...	1945
Calves	...	...	8118
Sheep	...	...	3501
Pigs	...	....	17339
Total			30903

The Councils Slaughterhouse Byelaws are being generally complied with. In a few cases pressure has had to be made to get the limewashing carried out and the Offals removed within the prescribed periods. In regard to tinned foods I have found few unfit for human consumption. Those found unfit were destroyed. Some improvement has taken place in provision shops by more effective protection of cooked meats and other foods from contamination by flies, etc. There is however still need for improvement in this direction.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of Persons licenced under the Act	57
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The Humane Killer is used for the rendering unconscious of all animals before sticking takes place. At the Somersetshire Bacon Curing Company's Premises at Bruton all pigs are rendered unconscious by electricity through the instrumentality of the "Electrothaler" and this is a considerable improvement on the Captive Bolt and Slaughtering Pistol methods.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Improvements have continued during the year in regard to ventilation, sanitary conveniences, and temperatures of shops. Some shops have been reconstructed and brought up to a modern standard.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926—38.

Number of cottages which came under my supervision in which reconstruction works have been completed during the year and Certificates issued by me to enable the grants to be paid to the Owners by the County Council ... 18

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. HAINE PADFIELD,

Inspector.

